Course Description

This course has been designed to provide advanced students and professionals with perspectives and commentaries on issues related to ethical issues in the science and practice of behavior analysis. The purpose is to provide a professional context for understanding the history, content, and complexities of ethical behavior. A majority of the information discussed falls under the scientific discipline of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Students will benefit most from the course if they have training and experience in behavior analysis.

The course addresses the following topics: 1) Introduction to Ethical Principles and Perspectives 2) Foundational Perspectives, Principles, and Considerations in the Field of Behavior Analysis 3) Maintaining and Expanding Ethical Behaviors in the Workplace, 4) Service Settings and Issues Deserving Special Consideration, and 5) Conducting Research Ethically. Within most modules, we have invited guest lecturers to speak on some aspect of the topic. A variety of readings will complement, contrast, extend or emphasize the speaker’s presentation, and other content presented in the module. Student activities include viewing lectures, reading articles and chapters, and answering both study, application, and essay questions. Students will integrate and apply information learned into an integration paper addressing a chosen population and service setting.

Course Prerequisites

BEHV 5130 Basic Behavioral Principles
BEHV 5150 Techniques
BEVH 5170 Research Applications

Instructor Information

Kenda Morrison, Ph.D., BCBA-D is the course moderator and instructor. To learn more about your instructor, please see the Home page in your course. Sarah Sumner, an advanced graduate student, is the Teaching Assistant. Sarah will answer questions about course content and technology, provide requested tutoring, and grade some written assignments.

Assistance

If you have a question that is not answered in the syllabus or activity instructions, we are here to help! To contact your Instructor or Teaching Assistant, please email us at behv5250E@unt.edu. Include your EUID and the activity title in the subject field of your email when you are asking about a specific activity. Students can expect a response before or during the next business day.

If you experience problems with Canvas, please select “help” to the left side of your screen. If you believe Canvas is experiencing an outage, please go here to check.

If you require help registering for this or another course in the sequence, or if you need help with other administrative matters, please email behvDLinfo@unt.edu. We will either help you or forward your request for help to the appropriate personnel at UNT.

Please ensure that you are receiving email from all "@unt.edu" addresses. Check your spam filters and your junk email folders. Change your email settings to allow emails from us to your inbox. We are not responsible for emails we send that you do not receive due to your email account settings. No extensions or exceptions will be granted based on this issue.
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Task List Items</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Component Assessment Activities</th>
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<td>1-2</td>
<td>Historical and Contemporary Perspectives</td>
<td>“Ethics and professional conduct are subsumed within each section of the task list.” This module lays the foundation for ethics on all task items. A.01 to FK.48</td>
<td>Describe historical and contemporary perspectives of ethics and morality in human affairs, as well as communicating with integrity</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
<td>Module 1: Foundations in Ethics</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Ethical Applications to Relationships with Others</td>
<td>C-1, 2, G-7, H-1, J-2, K-2</td>
<td>Describe how ethical perspectives and principles relate to applied behavior analysis and the BACB Professional and Ethical Codes</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
<td>Module 2: Ethics and Behavior Analysis</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Foundational Perspectives, Principles, and Considerations related to Ethics and the Behavior Analyst</td>
<td>B-1, C-1, D-2, 15, 16, 17, 19, G-2, 3, 4, 5, 7, H-1, 3, I-3, 4, 5, 7, J-1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, K-1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10</td>
<td>Define and provide examples of professional ethical codes specified by the BACB: (a) responsible conduct, (b) responsibility to clients, (c) assessment, (d) behavior change</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
<td>Application Scenarios</td>
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<td>Foundational Perspectives, Principles, and Considerations related to Ethics and the Behavior Analyst</td>
<td>B-2, G-7, J-2</td>
<td>Describe strategies for improving behavior-analytic repertoires</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
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<td>Maintaining and Expanding Ethical Behaviors in the Workplace</td>
<td>B-1, G-6, J-2, K-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, K-2, 8,9, FK-22</td>
<td>Describe the ethical importance of choice and methods for maximizing opportunities for choice</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
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<td>Improving Behavior-Analytic Repertoires</td>
<td>C-3, D-1, 2, E-4, 8, F-6, G-8, I-4, J-2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, K-2, 8,9, FK-22</td>
<td>Describe issues and behaviors deserving special consideration within applied behavior analysis</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
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<td>Ethical Issues regarding Control and Choice</td>
<td>D-4, E-11, F-7, G-3, 6, 7, H1, I-1, 3, 4, 5, J-2, 5, 6, 7, K-2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, FK-44</td>
<td>Describe common issues encountered in service settings with children</td>
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<td>Issues Deserving Special Consideration</td>
<td>G-2, 4, 6, J-4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, K-7</td>
<td>Describe common issues encountered in service settings with adults.</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Ethical Behavior in Various Service Settings with Children</td>
<td>G-7, H1, 3, J-6, 9, K-2, K-6</td>
<td>Describe guidelines for conducting research ethically</td>
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<td>D-1, J-8, K-7</td>
<td>Describe guidelines for being responsive to multicultural diversity and social justice</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Conducting Research Ethically</td>
<td>G-8, K-2, 8</td>
<td>Describe and provide examples of BACB professional and ethical codes related to the BACB</td>
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<td>Multicultural Diversity and Social Justice</td>
<td>G-8, K-2, 8</td>
<td>Describe various problem-solving approaches for difficult and novel ethical dilemmas</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Responsibility to the BACB</td>
<td>G-8, K-2, 8</td>
<td>Answer Study Guide Questions</td>
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<td>Practical Suggestions for Ethical Behavior</td>
<td>G-8, K-2, 8</td>
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<td><strong>Ethics Course Objectives and Learning Competencies</strong></td>
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BACB Course Hours
Content is based on the 4th edition BACB Task List. This course specifically covers the following academic requirements for the BCBA certification exam: 45 hours of ethical and professional conduct. For more information on the Verified Course Sequence distribution, see the VCS grid.

Instructional Allocations
A typical college graduate course requires allocations of 3 hours of contact time (e.g., course lectures and/or engagement activities) per week and 3-6 hours of additional effort (e.g., reading, writing, researching, studying). This totals 45 hours of instructional time and about 90 hours of additional activities. In this course, contact time includes watching lectures and answering questions. Additional effort includes reading and a written project.

A Note Regarding the Course Content and Format
We have chosen the content and the arrangement of materials and activities for specific reasons related to the current state of the science and practice of behavior analysis, the varying levels of experience of our students, and the wealth of expertise we have access to through our distinguished lecture series.

First and foremost, many ethical dilemmas are complex. Competent interventionists should be aware that even among advanced and knowledgeable professionals, there are differing vantage points and perspectives. Our desire was to create a course that would survey the landscape of information and perspectives.

Second, students taking this on-line class will enter with a wide range of skills and experience and work in diverse settings. We hope to have chosen lectures and readings that have generality across those skills and settings. We also hope that the flexible response format will allow students to respond at their level of functioning and interest.

Finally, we have chosen this format with the understanding that any information covered in this class will be integrated and considered in the context of treatment settings where there is BCBA supervision. We have deliberately chosen not to include discussion threads or interactive exercises for two reasons. First, many ethical dilemmas are complex and in order to decide on the best course of action one must have a great deal of information regarding the specific situation, societal and professional guidelines, moral and legal precedents, as well as the ability and skills to engage in the appropriate responses in various ethical situations. This course cannot teach you all those skills. A mentor in your supervised training may be able to teach you many of them. Second, while discussions help students explore concepts and increase understanding, they also allow opportunities for students to learn misinformation. Without constant monitoring and comprehensive feedback, some discussions may actually lead to unethical responding. This can be especially dangerous for the vulnerable populations typically served by behavior analysts. In applying what you learn in this course to individual cases, supervision or mentoring by a qualified behavior analyst is an ethical requirement. Although constant monitoring and comprehensive feedback are beyond the scope of this course, they are not beyond the scope of mentored experiences.

Required Textbooks

Course Activities

Readings, Lectures and Study Guides
The modules contain lectures, journal articles, and/or book chapters selected by the course designers. All readings are listed at the end of this syllabus and can be found in the Course Menu. Each lecture and reading has a corresponding set of study guide questions. Each study guide contains multiple-choice questions. The questions are designed to facilitate and demonstrate comprehension of the content and are not tests. You can refer to the assigned readings when answering the questions.

Study Guide questions may have multiple correct answers. For each item, Canvas assigns points by dividing a point by the number of correct answers and then assigning partial credit for each correct answer chosen and subtracting partial credit for each incorrect answer. For instance, if a question has five possible answers, but only three are correct, each correct answer chosen is worth .33 points. If a student selects an incorrect answer, .33 points are deducted from the total earned. Using this example, if a student chooses two of the three correct answers and one of the incorrect answers, a total of .33 points would be awarded for this item. This reflects .66 points earned for selecting two of the three correct answers and -.33 for selecting one of the incorrect answers. Canvas will record the highest score of your three attempts.

Lectures – Lectures are given by noted professionals in the science and practice of behavior analysis. These lectures address some portion of the content for the module and are meant to complement the readings. You will watch each of the lectures and answer the study guide questions for that lecture.
Instructor-Selected Readings – Each module contains a list of journal articles or book chapters selected by the course instructors. Many of the assigned readings cover content from the BACB Task List (4th ed.) and the BACB Professional and Ethical Compliance Code, as well as the Bailey textbook and selected journal articles and book chapters on ethical issues in behavior analysis. These are required readings. You will read each article or chapter and answer the corresponding study guide questions. Readings are available in the assigned textbooks or on the Course Menu.

Application Assessments
Throughout the course, there are several opportunities to answer an essay question based on a videotaped roleplay scenario. Students will watch the video and then use what they have learned in the course to write a short essay.

At the end of some modules, you will answer application scenario questions intended to integrate the information presented in that and previous modules. Each question is comprised of a paragraph-long description of a situation. You are to carefully read the question and then identify the ethical dilemmas and possible solutions presented by the scenario.

Integration and Reflection Assessment
After learning about different populations and service settings, you will provide an overview of ethical issues in an area of practice, discuss ethical challenges in that area of practice, suggest solutions to one detailed ethical challenge, and reflect on this challenge and the course. Directions, a rubric, checklist, and template are provided for this essay. Review the Integration and Reflection assignment materials BEFORE you start the readings and lectures needed to complete this assignment. This will orient you to the expectations for this assignment and help you attend properly to the information in the lectures and readings.

Using the activity instructions, you will upload your integration assignment to Turnitin within the corresponding Canvas activity for evaluation and credit. Grading will begin on the due date. Grades will be posted to the course page within two weeks after the due date. Grading will be based on the degree to which the student follows instructions, the accuracy of responses, supporting citations and references for responses, and the clarity of the answer. Students must work independently and use their own thoughts and words.

Please note that the Integration and Reflection assignment does not have a grace period. This assignment will not be accepted after the specified deadline, so please note the due date in your calendar:

April 6: Integration and Reflection
Course Etiquette

Collaboration and civility are core values in the practice of behavior analysis.

Completing courses is part of your graduate education. How you engage in those courses is also part of your graduate education – because of that we emphasize professional etiquette as part of your preparation as a behavior analyst.

- Be kind, polite and respectful. Sometimes the impersonality of the computer makes it hard to remember that we are all humans trying to teach, learn, and make the world a better place. That is why we went into behavior analysis. Be patient with yourself, the process and us!
- Be a problem solver and contributor to improvement of situations. Communicating online is not always as easy because of time differences, technology challenges, and lack of context. Try to approach problems from a behavior analytic perspective and then work on solutions by changing the environment.
- Seek help when you are not able to resolve something on your own. Collaboration is an important skill in behavior analysis. Learn to know what you don't know and when you need to ask for help. Respond to feedback and suggestions in a professional manner. Our courses are designed to help you succeed. That is why we exist.
- Remember the big picture and let that help you behave civilly when you feel discouraged. You are doing this because you will learn skills to help people. That is a goal worth all the hard effort you are putting into it.

Academic Integrity

Honesty is a core value in the practice of behavior analysis.

Progress depends on honesty in data collection, reporting and documenting. For that reason, plagiarism is especially troublesome for behavior analysts in training.

Please note that all work must be completed independently and must be your own work in your own words. Plagiarism, including submitting content identical or highly similar to other student’s papers and copying content from journal articles, websites or other sources is strictly prohibited. Using your own previous work without citation is also considered plagiarism.

Turnitin will systematically detect any plagiarism. If plagiarism is detected you will not receive points for the activity. If more than one assignment is plagiarized you will receive an “F” in the course. If you plagiarized in more than one course you will be dropped from the program.

You are responsible for reading and understanding Academic Integrity Policy (also found in the Preparatory Module of the course) and the UNT Student Academic Integrity Policy

Feedback

Feedback will be collected at the end of the semester. At that time, we will ask you to evaluate the content, instruction, and delivery of the course.
Course Calendar and Timelines
The Syllabus link on the Course Menu lists the dates when each assignment in the course is due. The Calendar in the Global Navigation Menu on Canvas will also show you all the assignments due on each day. Please use these resources to make a notation of all deadlines in your personal calendar.

- **Please complete the first module of the course, Preparatory Activities – which includes the Student Attestation and the Syllabus quiz, during the first week of the semester.** You must complete this module in order to unlock the rest of the modules in the course.
- **THIS COURSE HAS WEEKLY DEADLINES.** To help students do well on the written assignment and in the course, students are required to complete activities by weekly deadlines. We understand that circumstances may sometimes prevent you from meeting a deadline. Therefore, we have a one-week grace period after each deadline, **with the exception of the Integration and Reflection Assignment.** This means that each activity, except Integration and Reflection Assignment, will be available for one week after the deadline on the calendar. After the one-week grace period ends, the activity will be deactivated, and students will no longer be able earn any points on these activities. There will be **no exceptions.** Therefore, to do well, it is crucial to not only keep up with the course calendar, but to work ahead as much as possible in case of emergencies or other events.
- Students must submit the **Integration and Reflection Assignment** by the deadline on **April 6, 2020; there is no grace period for this assignment.**
- **Students must complete the entire course by the course deadline, April 30, 2020. There is no grace period for activities due the last week of class.**

**Tutoring**
If you have questions about the course materials, please email us anytime. We love hearing from students, and we are here to help! If would like to know the answers to specific questions, please let us know the activity title, the item number, and provide some information about why you think certain answers are correct or incorrect. While we cannot provide specific correct answers, your information will help us to provide tutoring over the course content, which will then help you to determine the correct answers.

**Course Grades**
The grading system and feedback are designed to set you up for success if you complete the activities in order and as instructed. A grade of “B” or better is required in this course.

- **No credit is given for late assignments.**
- You will have immediate feedback on all on-line activities, with the exception of written assignments.
- Grading for written assignments will begin on the due date. Students will receive feedback within two weeks.
- Each activity indicates the number of points that can be earned within the activity.
- The Grades link on the left side of your Course Menu will provide you with information about your score for each activity and your grade in the class. Select “Calculate based only on graded assignments” if you would like to see how well you have performed on assignments which have been completed and graded. Or, deselect this option to see your current overall grade in the class.
  - We recommend using the first option (selecting “Calculate based only on graded assignments”) for the majority of the course as this will give you a fairly accurate picture of how you are currently doing in the class. However, as it gets close to the end of the semester, **we recommend that you deselect that option and look at your overall grade in the course** as this will help you to determine how well you need to do on the remaining assignments in order to earn the grade you would like in the course.
  - Please note that assignments that are not completed by the due date will automatically be counted as missing and assigned a 0 in the grade book. If the assignment is then completed during the grace period, your grade will be updated to reflect what you scored on the assignment.
- Grades for the course are based on the percentage of possible points that a student earns:
  - 92-100% = A
  - 85-91.9% = B
  - 77-84.9% = C
  - below 77% = F
  - Total points are what ultimately determine your grade.
Course Credit
Successful completion of this course earns the student 3 semester hours of graduate credit or 45 continuing education credits. A grade of “B” or better is required before proceeding to the next course and to fulfill the requirements for the UNT Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis, the Graduate School, and BEHV Continuing Education requirements. At the end of the final week of the course, points will be tallied and each student will receive a course grade that is consistent with the number of points earned at that time.

Course Design
Shahla Ala’i-Rosales, Ph.D., BCBA-D and Kenda Morrison, Ph.D., BCBA-D designed this course. Nicole Bank assisted with study questions. Our outstanding staff conducts testing and reliability on course activities.

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All activities in the course are copyrighted by UNT Behavior Analysis Online and may not be reproduced or utilized by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission of the copyright owners. Students are expressly prohibited from copying course questions and/or uploading them to websites. This is both a violation of copyright and a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

Accommodations
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility.

If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class.

Since this is an online program, you may email accommodations letters and requests to the course instructor. Instructors have the authority to ask students to discuss accommodations letters with students during an arranged appointment time to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.
Important Notice for F-1 Students Enrolled in a UNT Degree Program


The paragraph reads: (G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student’s physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student’s course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student’s full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

1/15/04 Rev. 7/22/2016
Course Textbook and Instructional Content


